
PROJECT: **WEAVER SLICES WAVE BARRIER PROJECT** **MANCHESTER SHIPPING CANAL**

VALUE: £460,000
ROLE: MAIN CONTRACTOR
START DATE: AUGUST 2018
COMPLETION: FEBRUARY 2019

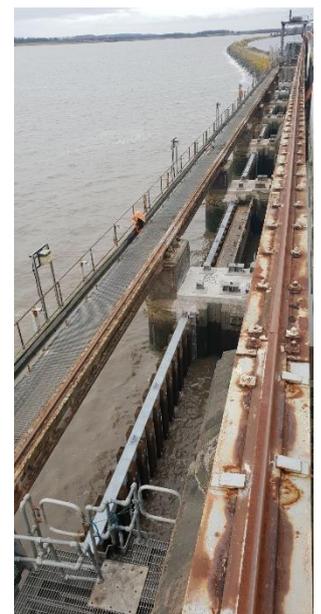
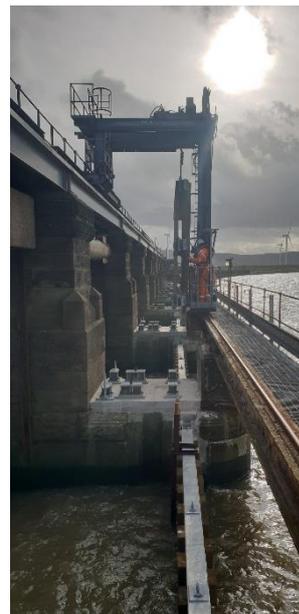
CLIENT: PEEL PORTS
MARITIME CENTRE
LIVERPOOL
L21 1LA

- Victorian structure
- Alterations/ repairs to existing abutments
- Replacement of wave barriers/ guides
- Installation of 5no. arrestor plinths
- Restricted site access
- Challenging tidal environment

Weaver Sluices form part of the canal water management system which operates between the Manchester Shipping Canal and the Mersey Estuary. Constructed in the 1890's, this Victorian structure has two main functions, to create a navigable waterway, and to discharge excess water from the canal into the estuary, reducing flood risk. To protect the sluice gates, a series of timber wave barriers were erected, dampening the effect of wave action as well as preventing damage from any floating debris. Following a competitive tender process, Southbay were awarded a contract to fabricate and replace a number of these barriers, as well as repairing associated infrastructure.

Initial works included erecting the wave barriers within the main site compound at Runcorn Docks, ready for transportation to the work face. This involved fixing 8no timber members to each side of prefabricated steel sections. In total, 10no. wave barriers were erected in this way. In order to transport the wave barriers and all associated plant/materials to the sluice gates, a Buffalo Barge was used. Access to the barrier abutments was obtained via a series of existing steel walkways. Following isolation of the sluice gates, shear connectors were fixed to the sandstone abutments, which were subsequently re-profiled. Prior to installing the wave barrier guides, all marine growth and debris was first cleaned from surrounding masonry including the barrier channels. Once the barrier channels were prepared, the guides were lifted into position using a semi goliath crane, and fixed to each abutment. The pre-assembled wave barriers were then lifted by the crane and lowered into the guides, coming to rest on the lower seating plate. To prevent uplift of the barriers, top stops were fixed at the top of the abutments.

At various points across the sluice gates are a series of access platforms which rest on arrestor plinths. As part of our work scope a further 5no. arrestor plinths were installed across the structure. Grouting was first undertaken to stabilise the identified sandstone copings before prefabricated arrestor plinths were anchored into position.



Weaver Sluices form part of a canal water management system.

CHALLENGES

In delivering the works, temporary access frames were used when installing the barrier guides, and arrestor plinths. This ensured the site team could safely access all areas of the structure whilst working within this challenging environment. Works to the lower sections of the structure were planned in accordance with tidal restrictions. An excellent standard of health and safety was maintained throughout, on a scheme which involved working within a remote location where the only access to the structure was via boat/barge. In addition, careful consideration was given to the limited working space available when lifting the wave barriers into position. When working on the structure all operatives were secured via harnesses to an arrestor wire to minimise risk when working at height.